

when the House adds on an additional \$50 billion over the next 5 years to the CHIP program. That will ensure that an additional 5 million children are insured.

Let's once again act in a bipartisan fashion this week and pass the CHAMP Act.

GOOD NEWS COMING OUT OF IRAQ

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, let's talk about some of the good news coming out of Iraq. I realize the Democratic majority would like to spend most of our time talking about failure in Iraq. Indeed, that is what we have done during the first 7 months of Congress. However, the new strategy in Iraq and the new general in charge are making real progress on the ground.

The Iraqi people are beginning to stand up for the safety and security of their neighborhoods. A recent story in the *Times of London* states the increased presence of U.S. forces in the Doura neighborhood in South Baghdad, "is encouraging insiders to overcome their fear and divulge what they know. Convoys of U.S. soldiers are working the rubble-strewn streets day and night, knocking on doors, speaking to locals and following up on leads on possible insurgent hideouts."

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives, we owe it to the Iraqi people, to give this new strategy a chance to succeed, and we need to talk about their successes.

□ 1030

CONGRESS MUST ACT ON IRAQ

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding that this Congress take action to responsibly end the war in Iraq and bring our troops home safely. If the results of last November's election were not clear enough, a poll released last week indicates that a majority of Americans look to Congress and not the President to extricate ourselves from this dangerous mess. Day after day we hear about Republicans "questioning" the President's stay-the-course strategy.

But mere words that grab headlines will not guarantee the responsible disengagement of our troops. Congressional action can and will.

Earlier this month, the House passed the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, a plan that would bring our troops home by April of next year. Sadly, the measure received just four Republican votes. Rather than join our efforts, most Republicans continue to block meaningful attempts to end this war.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to raise questions, but actions speak louder than words. This week Republicans get another chance. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen to the American people; take action now and bring our troops home.

CLOSE FISA LOOPHOLE

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our Nation faces an increased threat of a terrorist attack, and yet, Members on both sides of the aisle are well aware of a problem with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. There is a giant loophole that handcuffs the ability of our Nation and our intelligence services to gather the information that would better protect the American people and our allies around the world.

Congress has known about this issue over the last 3 or 4 months, and yet the majority has refused to bring that issue to this floor.

I encourage all of my colleagues to insist that before we leave here for the August district work period, that Congress deal with FISA modernization and close this terrorist loophole so we can better protect the American people.

PASS TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PERU, PANAMA AND COLOMBIA

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, trade is important to my home State of Illinois. One in five manufacturing jobs depends on trade; 40 percent of agricultural products are exported from Illinois; and I would note, of the 17,000 Illinois companies that are dependent on trade, the vast majority are small employers.

We have a great opportunity with some new trade agreements with Peru, Panama, and Colombia. They are important both for Illinois jobs as well as for democratic security in our hemisphere. I would note today for our friends in Panama, Peru and Colombia, their products come to the United States tax free. But when we sell our products to them, we pay taxes. Our partners have agreed to eliminate those taxes and level the playing field. It is time to honor our commitments with our trading partners. Unfortunately, some in the Democratic leadership have said they would reject a deal with our best friend in Latin America, Colombia, and have told our other trading partners they just are not worthy of a trade agreement. No wonder so many in Latin America think the United States Congress is turning its back on Latin America. Peru, Panama and Colombia represent our best allies.

They are good trade agreements. Let's move forward and level the playing field. Pass these trade agreements.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Iran's self-proclaimed ambition to develop nuclear weapons is a grave threat to the United States and the world. Imagine the consequences of Iran developing nuclear weapons. It would destabilize the Middle East in an unprecedented fashion, ramp up the threat to our greatest ally, Israel, and give Islamic extremists the means to satisfy their gruesome goal, which is to bring chaos and death to our Nation and world.

In confronting this perilous threat, the United States must employ every element of our national power to stop the Iranian nuclear weapons program. The House will take a strong step today in that direction by passing the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, which discourages investment in Iran's energy sector.

Countering the Iranian threat requires a steady, rational assessment of the world around us. And when a country led by Islamic extremists vows to attack our greatest ally and our country, you better believe we will stand firm and stare down the enemy.

PRO-TRADE AGENDA

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with our global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our Nation's leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them the incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers.

I have seen these jobs created in Washington State firsthand, with trade accounting for one of every three jobs in the State of Washington. Free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama and South Korea are currently pending before Congress. We cannot allow these important agreements to languish in committee.

I urge my colleagues in the majority to stop the delays, pass these free trade agreements and renew trade promotion authority. Let's advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs and improve our relations with global partners.